THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAI AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (g) The matter will be further examined and the information will be laid on the table of the House, as soon as possible.

Current price of Analgin

652. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
CHOWIHURY RAM SEWAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 402 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current price of Analgin as fixed by Government is. Rs. 251 per Kg.;

(b) when this price was fixed and when formulation price were reduced and what is the gap period between the two;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to this lapse on the part of Government M/s. Hoechst have gained rupees twenty five lacs per month; and

(d) when Government have taken any steps to investigate the matter and identify the persons and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The price of bulk drug Analgin at Rs. 251/- per kg. was fixed on 26-2-1991 For the prices of Analgin based formulations on this price, BICP pointed out certain anomalies and sought clarifications thereon from the Department. The matter is under examination.

Details of complaints against companies

653. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 403 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the details of complaints in regard to companies and products are not based on facts;

(b) what are the details of cases of overcharging where action under Essential Commodities Act have been taken;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints of overcharging of prices of Ephedrine, Ampicillin formulations, Metronidazole and its injections. Paracetamol, Fluocinolone, Acetomide formulations and Dexamethasone formulations;

(d) if so, what are the details of each and what action has been taken so far;

(e) what are the details of Pre-August 1987 cases relating to overcharging which are still pending with Government;

(f) whether it is a fact that companies did not proivde details of overcharging to Government; and

(g) whether any steps are being taken not to allow price revision to them till they give the date of overcharging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (g) As and when any complaint of overcharging is received, the same is sent to the State Drug Control Administration for investigation. In case the facts are found to be correct after due investigation, further action under DPCO 1987 as well as Essential Commodities Act as the case may be is initiated by the Department. Complaints of overcharging of Ephedrine, Metronidazole formulations, Paracetamol, Fluocinolone Acetonide and Dexamethasone formulations have been received which are under consideration of this Department. The requisite details of cases of overcharging prior to August 87 are being given in answer to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 650 answered on 5-9-1991.

Increase in the Trade Commission

654. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 400 given in the Rajya Sabha on the

18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that first Trade Commission was increased by Government and then survey was ordered to be conducted by Bhatti Committee;

(b) if so, what was the need of this survey and the authority who suggested this survey which have proved useless; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to probe the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Since there was an increase in MAPE available to the industry under DPCO, 1987, its benefit without delay was passed on to the trade also by increasing the trade margins. However, the quantum of trade margin being a contentious issue. Bhatti Committee was constituted by Government to undertake a detailed and comprehensive study of the pattern of trade margins in the pharmaceutical industry.

Show cause notice issued by Bombay High Court against M/s. Hoechst

655. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 373 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what was the deadline fixed by Bombay high court for responding to show cause notices by M/s. Hoechst;

(b) whether the company responded to the notices within the stipulated time, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the parts and dates with which the Company did not respond; and

(d) what is the reaction of Governmentt to the situation, with full details of date-wise communication exchanged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) M/s. Hoechst did make available some information and date before the expiry of 8 weeks period stipulated in the Bombay High Court's Order dated the 8th March, 1991. It was, however, noticed that the information supplied by the company did not tally with the one already available with the Government and therefore, the figures needed reconciliation which is being done. The case will be progressed in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO and the directions of the Courts.

Impact of custom duty concessions on Drugs

656. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 397 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have no set up to monitor the import of custom dtuy concessions on production and prices of end products;

(b) if so, whether Government have informed the position to the Ministry of Finance;

(c) If so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

(d) what are the names of bulk drugs and drug intermediates on which custom duty concessions have been given by the Finance Ministry so far during the last two years on the basis of recommendations of Government; and

(e) what are the details of other bulk drugs apart from two where custom duty concessions have been passed on to public and what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN). (a) to (e) Proposals of customs duty concessions are examined by this Department, before sending any recommendation in this regard to the Ministry of Finance, are taken into account while fixing the prices. The major objective of duty rationalisation is to encourage production from a more basic stage. The question of setting up the requisite mechanism for monitoring the production and prices of and products will be examined and taken up with Ministry of Finance.